Specifically, the common concept of encapsulation in object technology is to place data with its' associated methods together in a single object. In contrast, the integration layer is developed such that those methods that express a relationship (referred to herein as "relationship methods") are placed in separate objects—the relationship objects. In this manner, a higher degree of encapsulation is provided. While relationship methods within relationship objects are similar to methods commonly found in object technology in that they can be applied to the objects that contain them, relationship methods within relationship objects are different in that they often are applied to other objects, including base objects and other relationship objects. For a further description of relationship objects, see "A Method and Apparatus for Providing Relationship Objects and Various Features to Relationship and Other Objects," filed September 30, 1998, by Bhalchandra Ghatate, which is herein incorporated by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-46 with out prejudice